



Annual India Festival

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer
Saturday, February 20, 2010

Namaste!

Thank you for giving me a chance to visit your beautiful Community Center and Temple.

This Unity Temple is an inspirational monument -- not only for all Indo-Americans, but also for all Arizonans -- including myself!

It represents the accomplishment of hard work and cooperation of many diverse groups and people of different backgrounds -- all coming together for a common cause.

It shows the power of working in harmony, living peacefully together, and celebrating our diversity.

As governor, I have had the privilege to work closely with you and your families on many important issues.

I have always been impressed with your diligence, rich culture, and strong sense of community and education.

These are values that are very important to me.

Those of you who know me, know I am a truth-teller. So, let me tell you this.

I do not overstate the case when I say that the excellence we all see here -- the core functions and things we value in this state will not continue without a positive response from the voters on May 18th.

I fought for – and won, thanks to the help of courageous members of both parties in the State Senate and the State House – the right of the VOTERS to decide whether to raise the state sales tax by 1 percent over the next three years.

I've never voted to raise taxes in my entire career, but in 28 years in public service, I've learned one thing above all else: Doing the right thing almost always means doing the hard thing.

I will be a "YES" vote come Election Day.

I'm voting "YES" because it's the right thing to do, and I strongly encourage you to vote "YES" as well.

If we are to preserve the core functions of the Arizona we all love, then Prop 100 must pass.

Prop 100 will keep funding for Arizona's K-12 education system at reasonable levels, keeping students learning and class sizes manageable. It will go to our universities and community colleges to keep higher education affordable. It will go to keep felons locked up and it will go to give Arizona's poorest families the help they desperately need.

Without the revenue a "YES" vote will bring, these programs must be cut by more than \$1 billion immediately. The damage done to education, and public safety would be far too great.

That's why Prop 100 is the right thing to do. This is a temporary tax that will get us through until revenues recover, so that education does not bear the brunt of the downturn.

Please understand, though, that this isn't a cure-all. In the past year, we've streamlined state government by more than \$1 billion -- with more reductions to come. I have reduced the size of Government more than any Governor in state history. We have tax reforms and an aggressive pro-growth job creation program that are ramping up, but still we need Prop 100.

It's a hard request to make, but it's the right one, for our state and for our future. Please vote "YES" on Prop 100.

I did not create this situation -- but I intend to resolve it -- and continue telling the people the truth about it. I am a problem solver. And, with your help, we will get through this.

My mother raised two children, opened up a business of her own and never quit.

My mother met every challenge that came her way ...

I am my mother's daughter.

I will never quit on education.

I will never give up on our public safety.

I will not yield.

This event is an important reminder of how India has enriched the world with a culture that is beautiful, sophisticated and enduring.

Of course, your most precious gift to America – and to Arizona – are the people who have become proud citizens of our country.

Many are here tonight, and they embody the bond that fastens us together as a state and a nation. So, together we have a calling to preserve what we have forged -- a community that shines because of its diversity – one that is treasured -- and one that must be preserved.

Thank you again for allowing me to be part of this historic celebration ... and Shukria!